using, for example, a speaker unit. In this case, a speaker converting electrical signals to sounds may be disposed so as to be opposed to the through-hole of the depression, instead of the microphone **155**. In addition, the engaging means **120** may be configured by using, for example, a light emitting unit for indicating information such as an incoming call, receiving an e-mail, or an alarm by means of the light emission. In this case, a light emitting element made of light emitting diodes may be disposed so as to be opposed to the through-hole of the depression, instead of the microphone **155**.

[**0119**] With the arrangement of the engaging means **120** using the speaker unit or the light emitting unit, it is possible to prevent the speaker or the light emitting element from being damaged in the configuration where the casings **102** and **103** are closed similarly to the arrangement using the microphone unit **109**.

[**0120**] While the projections **115** and **159** are attached to the opposed face **103***d* of the second casing **103** in the above embodiment, it is not limited thereto, but any other arrangement is possible if the projections **115** and **159** do not easily come off the opposed face **103***d*. Therefore, for example, as shown in **FIG. 24**, hook-shaped engaging portions **161** and **162** may be formed on the side of the rear end of the projections **115** and **159** and the engaging portions **161** and **162** may be engaged with the through-holes **163** and **164** formed on the opposed face **103***d* of the second casing **103** for the projections **115** and **159** to be attached.

[**0121**] Furthermore, while the coupling means **105** is provided with the guide means **140**, it need not be provided particularly. In this arrangement, when opening from the position in which the casings **102** and **103** are closed each other with the rotation, the biasing means **20** biases the front ends **102***b* and **103***b* of the casings **102** and **103** in the direction of bringing them close to each other, by which the projections **115** and **159** abut the opposed face **102***a* of the first casing **102**. Since, however, each of the projections **115** and **159** is formed of an elastic body such as elastically deformable rubber, it is possible to prevent the opposed face **102***a* of the first casing **2** and the operation unit **107** provided on the opposed face **102***a* being damaged by contact.

[**0122**] Furthermore, the present invention is not limited to the configuration where the operation unit **107** is provided on the opposed face **102***a* of the first casing **102** and the display unit **111** is provided on the outer surface **103***a* of the second casing **103**, For example, the display unit **111** may be provided on the opposed face **102***a* of the first casing **102** and the operation unit **107** may be provided on the outer surface **103***a* of the second casing **103**. In this arrangement, since the two casings **102** and **103** do not relatively rotate unexpectedly when operating the operation unit **107** with the casings **102** and **103** closed, it is possible to achieve good operationality of the portable phone **100**. In addition, when opening or closing the two casings with the relative rotation, the projections **115** and **159** do not damage the display unit **11**.

[**0123**] In addition, The arrangement may be such that cords such as power lines or signal lines are inserted to pass through the joint **13**, the rotator **12**, the rotator **61**, and the rotator **84** in the axial direction to rotate the first casing **1**. Furthermore, since the first base member **81**, the second base member **83**, the rotator **84**, and the like are formed of a conductive metal material in the preferred embodiment of **FIG. 12**, the rotating mechanism itself is considered to be a conductive portion and the second casing **2** (the main unit **2**) and the first casing **1**(superposing unit **1**) may be electrically connected. The same arrangement may be applied to other embodiments

[**0124**] While the present invention has been described in connection with certain preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the subject matter encompassed by the present invention is not limited to those specific embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended to include all improvements, alternatives, and modifications as can be included within the spirit and scope of the present invention. More specifically, while the present invention has been described by giving an example of a portable phone having two speakers in the preferred embodiments of the portable terminal of the present invention, naturally the portable phone can be provided with only a single speaker. Furthermore, as stated above, the portable terminal is applicable to various devices such as a PDA or a portable personal computer as well as the portable phone.

What is claimed is

1. A portable terminal having a first casing and a second casing, wherein the casings have respective first and second surfaces facing a user of the portable terminal, the portable terminal comprising:

a rotating mechanism coupling the first casing to the second casing and inclining the first casing relative to the second casing during at least an initial stage of rotating the first casing relative to the second casing,

whereby the surfaces substantially face the user when rotating the first casing relative to the second casing.

2. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein the rotating mechanism has biasing means for biasing the first casing towards the second surface of the second casing.

3. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein the rotating mechanism has angle control means for varying an angle formed between the first and second surfaces during the relative rotation of the first casing and the second casing.

4. The portable terminal according to claim 3, wherein the angle control means maintains a constant angle formed between the first and second surfaces and increases the angle after the initial stage of the rotation from a position in which the first and second casings are superposed on each other.

5. The portable terminal according to claim 3, wherein the angle control means gradually increases the angle formed between the first and second surfaces after the initial stage of the rotation from a position in which the first and second casings are superposed on each other.

6. The portable terminal according to claim 3, wherein the angle control means has a guide provided respectively on the first casing or the second casing and a protrusion provided respectively on the second casing or the first casing and abutting the guide, and varying the angle between the first and second surfaces by sliding the protrusion on the guide with the relative rotation of the first and second casings.

7. The portable terminal according to claim 6, wherein the portable terminal has a depression mated with the protrusion at a location of the guide opposed to the protrusion when the first and second casings are superposed on each other.

8. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein the rotating mechanism has a first base member with a mounting